CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method implemented on a user interface incorporated in a computer system coupled with a scanner for performing a scan operation on an original document, the computer system running a scanner driver and an application program; the method comprising the steps of:

determining a set of image processing settings by a scanner driving program that are suited for optimal scan of the original document;

activating the scanner to perform a scan operation on the original document based on the image processing settings to thereby obtain a primitive scanned image which is then transferred to the scanner driver;

activating the scanner driver to perform an image-enhancement process on the primitive scanned image to thereby obtain a quality-enhanced image; and

transferring the quality-enhanced image to the application program for use by the application program.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the image-enhancement process includes an automatic cutting routine.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the image-enhancement process includes a distortion correction routine.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the image-enhancement process includes a color calibration routine.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the image-enhancement process includes an automatic character recognition routine.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the application program is an image editing pro-

gram.

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the application program is a word processor pro-

gram.

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8.   A user interface incorporated in a computer system coupled with a scanner for

performing a scan operation on an original document, the computer system running a

scanner driver and an application program; the method comprising the steps of:

    means for determining a set of image processing settings by a scanner driving

10   program that are suited for optimal scan of the original document;

    means for activating the scanner to perform a scan operation on the original

document based on the image processing settings to thereby obtain a primitive scanned

image which is then transferred to the scanner driver;

    means for activating the scanner driver to perform an image-enhancement process

15   on the primitive scanned image to thereby obtain a quality-enhanced image; and

    mean for transferring the quality-enhanced image to the application program for

use by the application program.

9.   The user interface of claim 8, wherein the image-enhancement process includes an

automatic cutting routine.

20   10.   The user interface of claim 8, wherein the image-enhancement process includes a

distortion correction routine.

11.   The user interface of claim 8, wherein the image-enhancement process includes a

color calibration routine.

12. The user interface of claim 8, wherein the image-enhancement process includes an automatic character recognition routine.

13. The user interface of claim 8, wherein the application program is an image editing program.

5 14. The user interface of claim 8, wherein the application program is a word processor program.

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